

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A printing machine comprising:

a plurality of image formation units therein each of which serves to perform a printing operation of an image data on a printing sheet, said plurality of image formation units being used in parallel to improve printing speed of the printing machine;

a paper feed unit which serves to supply said image formation units with printing sheets;

a printed sheet transportation unit which serves to transport the printing sheets having been printed from each of said image formation units to a common output location;

an error detection unit which serves to detect an error occurring in said printing machine;

a computer readable ROM having an error classified table stored therein in which errors that can occur in said printing machine are classified, said classified table including at least one error on an occurrence of which a printing operation of at least one of said image formation units for the image data can be continued while a printing operation of another of said image formation units for the image data must be halted, and at least one other error on an occurrence of which printing operations of all of said image formation units for the image data must be halted; and

a control unit comprising a CPU connected to said ROM, said CPU having an error judgment computer program executed thereon which computer program judges whether or not a detected error is an error with which a printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued while a printing operation of another of said image formation units must

be halted, or an error with which printing operations of all of said image formation units must be halted.

2. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit is capable of taking control of said printing machine in order to continue, without suspending, said printing operation when said control unit judges occurrence of an error with which said printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued.

3. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit is capable of reporting the result of judgment to a user.

4. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 2 wherein said control unit is capable of reporting the result of judgment to a user.

5. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 3 wherein said control unit is capable of reporting information of the penalty in throughput when a detected error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued.

6. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 4 wherein said control unit is capable of reporting information of the penalty in throughput when a detected error is an

error with which the printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued.

7. (currently amended) A method of reporting an error in a printing machine having a plurality of image formation units therein each of which serves to perform a printing operation of an image data on a printing sheet, said plurality of image formation units being used in parallel to improve printing speed of the printing machine, and a printed sheet transportation unit which serves to transport the printing sheet from each of said image formation units to a common output location, said method comprising:

an error detecting step of detecting an error which occurs in said printing machine;

an error look-up step of looking up the error detected in said error detecting step in an error classified table stored on a ROM;

an error judging step of judging whether or not the detected error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of said image formation units for the image data can be continued while a printing operation of another of said image formation units for the image data must be halted or an error with which the printing operation of all of said image formation units for the image data must be halted; and

an error reporting step of reporting the error as detected in said error detecting step as well as information of whether or not the printing operation can be continued by said printing machine with the error.

8. (previously presented) The method of reporting an error as claimed in claim 7 further comprising reporting information of the penalty in throughput when a detected error is an error with which the printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued.

9. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of said CPU and said ROM are located remote from and connected to said printing machine via a network connection.

10. (previously presented) The printing machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit is capable of taking control of said printing machine in order to complete said printing operation when said control unit judges that said detected error is an error with which said printing operation of at least one of said image formation units can be continued.